Cleaning drive at railway stations

1435. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have conducted any study to know the impact of entrusting the job of cleaning railway stations to private hands;

(b) whether Railways propose to extend this 'clean' drive to other important stations in other parts of the country;

(c) whether everything is going according to the expectation of the Railways in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (e) Railways have launched multi-pronged action under 'Operation Cleanliness' to improve sanitation and cleanliness at Railway stations & in trains. A Task Force was formed which identified the problem areas and suggested various measures including undertaking specialised cleaning activities by involving private parties. Contracts for cleaning have been awarded to private parties at some Railway stations by the Zonal Railways based on the need at the particular location, feasibility, availability of service provider etc. The Zonal Railways have been empowered to undertake such activities at important stations within their jurisdiction. Evaluation of work is a continuous process and the project is still in the experimental stage.

Walkie-talkie sets to crew in trains

1436. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the satellite phones in all the Zones and Divisional Headquarters have been installed;

(b) the fate of the proposal of Railways for giving atleast five walkie-talkie sets to the crew of all trains;

(c) in how many trains walkie-talkie sets have been introduced; and

(d) by when the Ministry is going to install the same in the remaining trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The old Zonal and Divisional Railway Headquarters, have been provided with satellite phones. The newly formed Zones & Divisions have initiated the procurement action and satellite phones will also be provided in new Zonal & Divisional Headquarters soon.

(b) to (d) Railways proposal was to give 5 Watt walkie-talkie sets to Drivers & Guards. These have since been provided to the Drivers and Guards of all trains.

Introduction of new trains

1437. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have already introduced fifty new trains, so far, during this year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that more such trains with provision for luxurious travel are likely to come up in the near future;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) steps taken/proposed to be taken to address the concerns of railway safety before the introduction of so many additional trains which would put mounting pressure on an already over burdended system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Introduction of new trains is an ongoing process. Trains are introduced on the basis of traffic justification, operational